

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China/Korea

DATE DISTR. 30 AUG 51

SUBJECT Difficulties of Moving Chinese  
Communist Artillery in Korea

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

1. On 2 May 1951 Chinese Communist Army (CCA) Headquarters called a meeting to discuss the mobility of artillery units in the Korean war. CCA Headquarters had received reports from the Volunteer Army Headquarters (VAH) that artillery and infantry units in Korea had not been able to coordinate closely because, in the advance, artillery was unable to provide effective support to the infantry and, in withdrawals, it was unable to provide effective cover. The major reason was the lack of tractors.<sup>1</sup> Chinese Communist artillery in Korea depended primarily on animals and, consequently, was unable to move fast enough to keep up with infantry units, either advancing or withdrawing.
2. The VAH cited the experience of the 41 Artillery Regiment<sup>2</sup> as an example. This artillery regiment was one of the best units in Korea and was equipped entirely with US-made 105 mm howitzers. The lack of tractors caused this unit to take 23 days to move from Antung to Pyongyang. VAN I (H. 38)<sup>2</sup> of the VAH requested more tractors from the supply and service units, but the number of vehicles available was not sufficient to meet the demand of his artillery units, primarily because of the urgent need to use them in transporting military supplies. Up to 11 May no definite solution had been found to increase the mobility of artillery forces in Korea.
3. CCA Headquarters has prepared a list of the number of vehicles required, and intends to ask the USSR to supply these vehicles.

1. ☐ Comment. This probably means prime movers for artillery pieces.

2. ☐ Comment. VAN, formerly commander of the Special Army Group, 4 Field Army, was appointed artillery commander of the VAH in December 1950.

3. ☐ Comment. The 41 Artillery Regiment was formerly assigned to the North China Military Area, and was stationed in Peitaiho (119-24, 39-51). It moved into Korea about December 1950.

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